

## APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

FY2012 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

<b>Legal Applicant Name:</b> Rocky Mountain Youth Corps	<b>Application ID:</b> 12AC133639
<b>Program Name:</b> Rocky Mountain Youth Corps AmeriCorps	

*For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. This feedback is provided on a restricted basis and cannot be shared or distributed outside of your organization. We hope you will find this information helpful in completing applications to our future grant competitions. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of your application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory.*

### **Reviewers' Summary Comments:**

- The applicant presents limited information about the needs of the local target communities. The applicant makes reference to high poverty rates and cites statistics demonstrating an educational achievement gap; however, the applicant provides limited information on how the recipients of service will benefit from the AmeriCorps program.
- The RMYC AmeriCorps will address community needs and create training and work experience opportunities for youth. The program will re-engage disenfranchised young people and provide work experience. The program will be modeled after a successful Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) of the 1930s.
- The applicant demonstrates a need utilizing data from the Census, New Mexico State Forestry and the New Mexican Public Education Department to highlight low graduation rates and high poverty and unemployment rates within the proposed population.
- The applicant suggests that without sufficient training at-risk youth, from Tao County, can potentially earn less than the average person. Further, with Members serving in the afterschool program, they will have an opportunity to serve as educational and cultural role models.
- There is a clear plan for Member recruitment, training and satisfaction and how project activities will enhance the social and economic conditions of the target area.
- The applicant identifies the target community and needs. Supporting documentation supports the applicants' stated needs and the proposed Member activities clearly align with addressing the needs. The applicant demonstrates past success through data on program outcomes, recruitment and retention, member satisfaction, and an independent evaluation of the program. The applicant outlines a detailed training and supervisory plan that will provide AmeriCorps members with the skills, knowledge, and

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support to be successful in their placements.

- The applicant presents persuasive data to address the community needs including 22% of New Mexico youth are not working, not in school, nor have any degree with Taos County, having a 43% high school drop-out rate, and 33% of youth living in poverty. The Taos public school has also failed to meet adequate yearly progress and has 100% of the students qualifying for free or reduced lunch. New Mexico State Forestry has identified 11 wild land urban interface zones at risk for catastrophic forest fires in Taos County, threatening a limited industrial base and recreational and tourism attractions.
- The applicant presents multiple field base opportunities for AmeriCorps members to participate in including an environmental steward crew to restore watersheds, provide community outreach and work towards wildfire prevention, a green crew who will weatherize and provide energy efficiency task to low income homes and a community improvement crew that will maintain and construct trails, improve and enhance community infrastructure and provide recreational opportunities. There will also be an educational mentoring service to provide the local elementary school with homework assistance, educational activities and physical activities.
- The applicant relies on daily morning check-in and end of day debriefings as an informal reflection time for all AmeriCorps members. A more formal reflection occurs during the quarterly member evaluation conducted by the crew supervisor.
- The applicant provided compelling data of the needs and feasible outcome of the project. The applicant has prior experience and success with AmeriCorps. The applicant describes numerous partners and collaboration with other non-profits to implement training.